Reviews

Geology and Mineral Resources of Parts of the Alaska Peninsula. By WALLACE W. ATWOOD. Bull. U.S. Geol. Surv. No. 467.

All available material bearing upon the geology and mineral resources of the Alaska Peninsula have been compiled and presented in this bulletin, and a considerable body of new material secured during the season of 1908 by Wallace W. Atwood and H. M. Eakin while investigating the coal fields of the Alaska Peninsula is here presented for the first time.

A large general map of the general geology of the peninsula and special detail maps of the Herendeen Bay and Unga Island region, and of the Chignik Bay region, are embodied in the report.

The geologic formations exposed in the peninsula range in age from Upper Triassic to the present. The Herendeen section, which has been worked in detail, includes representatives of the Upper Jurassic, Lower and Upper Cretaceous, Eocene, Miocene, Pleistocene, and Recent. Associated with the clastic sediments of this region there are some limestones and vast quantities of volcanic material, some of which appear to be of late Eocene age and some post-Miocene. There are active volcanoes in the region today adding to the pyroclastic rocks of the region.

The available coal measures in the Herendeen Bay region are in the Upper Cretaceous formation. A poor grade of coal or lignite is also found in rocks of Eocene age.

The Unga Island coal field located at Coal Harbor contains lignitic coal of Eocene age.

The Chignik Bay section includes rocks of upper Jurassic age, Upper Cretaceous, Eocene, and later volcanic, glacial, and post-glacial formations. The workable coal in the Chignik Bay field is also found in rocks of Cretaceous age.

Mr. Atwood has included a description of the general geographic and climatic conditions in the Alaska Peninsula, the present status of gold, copper, and coal mining, and a series of suggestions to the prospector.

The report is especially well illustrated with photographic views, numerous structure sections, and topographic sketches, and includes a somewhat full statement of the geomorphology of this portion of Alaska. The field work was carried on under difficult conditions and the report is a welcome addition to the available material on a little-known portion of the continent.